Bundala NP and another (Whitaker) enumerated burrows in the Menik Ganga (Yala NP) and Lunugumvehera NP. These observations and the results of this small study point to a fascinating and important behaviour by mugger which deserves systematic study. A comprehensive investigation focussing on the role of burrows in relation to the thermal ecology of crocodilians is sorely lacking and Sri Lanka offers a unique opportunity. The mugger cannot survive extended dry seasons without being able to regulate its temperature within safe limits. In a hot, dry area like Bundala their burrows are a vital refuge. Protection of the embankments in the Park is important for the long-term conservation of the species.

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## 17. A REPORT OF *GECKOELLA NEBULOSA* (BEDDOME, 1870) FROM SEONI DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH[1]

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On October 30, 2003 a freshly killed *Geckoella nebulosa* (Das 2003) was seen near a pile of rocks, close to a road near Seoni (22.06° N, 79.35° E), just outside Pench National Park.

The specimen was collected and deposited in the collections of the Bombay Natural History Society (Regn. No.: BNHS 1598). The forest type in Seoni district is Tropical Dry Deciduous and Tropical Moist Deciduous, largely dominated by *Tectona grandis* (Champion and Seth 1968). The area in which the gecko was found was a shady, forested patch, with little undergrowth, dominated by *Tectona grandis*.

The lizard measured 37.3 mm snout-vent length, and 27.2 mm tail length. The specimen agrees with Smith's (1935) description – 10 supralabials on both sides, 38 midventrals, back with small granular scales interspersed with numerous larger rounded tubercles. A notable discrepancy is that the specimen has 8 infralabials on each side, as against 10 in Smith (1935). The coloration is also the same as Smith (1935), except the tail tip was bright orange.

Other reptiles seen in the same area were *Sitana ponticeriana*, *Psammophilus blanfordanus*, *Hemidactylus brookii*, *Calotes versicolour*, *Mabuya carinata* (visual identification) and a shed skin *of Ptyas nucosus.*

This gecko was originally described as *Gymnodactylus nebulosa* from Golconda Hills (Andhra Pradesh) by Beddome in 1870. Further distributional records are as follows: Nelambo, South India (= Andhra Pradesh): Annandale (1913), Smith (1935), Tikader and Sharma (1992); Gorge Hills, Godavery and Russelconda in Andhra Pradesh: Smith (1935), Tikader and Sharma (1992); Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh (adjacent to Seoni district): Sharma (1976), Tikader and Sharma (1992); Kerala (Nilambur, Malappuram district) and Tamil Nadu (Saidapet district): Tikader and Sharma (1992); Koraput district, Orissa: Sanyal (1993); Puri district, Orissa: Dutta (1997). Das (2002) gives the distribution of this species from Puri and Koraput district in Orissa, to Gorge, Golconda and other isolated hills in Andhra Pradesh. The University of Michigan

Museum of Zoology has a skeletal preparation, UMMZ 127632, from Kharagpur, West Bengal (Gregory Schneider pers. comm.).

The report of this gecko from the Seoni district of southern Madhya Pradesh is the second report of this species from the state, and the first from Seoni district. The known distribution of this poorly studied gecko is interesting – being found in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu; up to West Bengal; as well as in the foothills of the Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh. The distribution of *Geckoella nebulosa* appears to be in the central and eastern parts of India, thus the report from Kerala (Tikader and Sharma 1992) needs confirmation.

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# 18. REDISCOVERY OF THE MISSING SYNTYPES OF *MABUYA NAGARJUNI* SHARMA 1969 (REPTILIA: SCINCIDAE) IN THE COLLECTION OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA[1]

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Sharma (1969) described *Mabuya nagarjuni* based on specimens collected from Vijaypuri South, Andhra Pradesh, near the right-bank of the River Krishna, 16°35' N, 79°28' E, *ca.* 152 m above msl. The original description did not formally designate a holotype, for which reason, all four specimens from the original type series need to be considered syntypes. The type series, which was collected on August 23, 1962 by B. Nath and I.N. Maligi, was deposited in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata. This nominal species, along with other Asian members of the Scincidae once assigned to the genus *Mabuya*, was transferred to the genus *Eutropis*, in support of long-separated evolutionary lineages, representing distinct monophyletic radiations of the South American, Asian, Afro-Madagasy and Cape Verdian groups (Mausfeld *et al.* 2002), and the new name combination should be *Eutropis nagarjuni* (Sharma 1969).

Das *et al.* (1998) and Das and Gayen (2004) listed the reptile types in the ZSI. In the former publication, two syntypes (ZSI 21170 and ZSI 21171) were mentioned as being extant, the remaining two syntypes reported as 'untraceable' in the collection. The type register also acknowledges the loss. The purpose of this communication is to announce the rediscovery of the two lost syntypes of *Mabuya nagarjuni* Sharma 1969, in the collection of the ZSI.

On July 29, 2003, while examining the types and additional material of *Mabuya nagarjuni* in the ZSI, in order to compare with new collection made in the vicinity of the type locality (Srinivasulu *et al.* 2005), the first author found two juveniles of the species stored along with other species of *Eutropis*. General coloration and pholidosis matched the pattern reported for this species, and that described by Sharma (1969, 1971). The accompanying label, bearing the number ZSI 21172, carries the same information as that on the labels of the known syntypes (ZSI 21170 and ZSI 21171), except, unlike the two adult female specimens, both the rediscovered specimens were marked 'unsexed'.

Both syntypes being reported here had damaged tails — the smaller individual lack a tail (detached tail not traced), while the larger one had a broken tail (tail incompletely detached from body and broken medially). The recovered syntypes were stored